

News

from the Illinois Commerce Commission

Voice: Springfield. 217.782.5793 Chicago. 312.814.2850 FAX 217.524.0674 BBS 217.782.9233 <http://www.state.il.us>
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Renewable Portfolio Standard Fact Sheet

- Illinois becomes 20th state to implement a Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS). Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have adopted an RPS.
- Recent vote in Congress for Federal RPS passed Senate with 52 votes.
- The RPS uses market mechanisms to ensure that a growing percentage of electricity is produced from renewable sources like wind and solar.
- Illinois customers will see 8 percent of their power come from renewable energy by 2013.
- The RPS provides a predictable, competitive hedge against volatile fossil-fuel prices.

Helps Keep Electricity Bills Low:

- Diversifying the power supply by developing America's homegrown renewable energy resources helps shield consumers from spikes in energy prices.
- Does not pick technology "winners" and "losers," but allows renewable energy technologies to compete against each other to further drive down costs.
- Is competitively neutral because it applies equally to all competing market participants.

Spurs Economic Development:

- A state RPS creates jobs and income in rural areas.
- Each large utility-scale wind turbine that goes on line generates over \$1 million in economic activity.
- Each turbine also provides thousands of dollars in lease payments per year for 20 years or more to a farmer, rancher or other landowner.
- Wind projects in rural areas contribute significantly to the local tax base. The new Crescent Ridge Wind Farm will be the largest property taxpayer in Bureau County.

Strengthens Energy Security:

- Increasing our use of renewable sources diversifies and decentralizes our energy infrastructure

Helps Achieve Cleaner Air:

- Adopting an RPS can help reduce emissions of harmful air pollutants and of carbon dioxide (a leading greenhouse gas).

Renewable Portfolio Standards have been adopted in nineteen states and the District of Columbia

Arizona	California	Colorado	Connecticut	District of Columbia
Hawaii	Iowa	Illinois	Maine	Maryland
Massachusetts	Minnesota	Nevada	New Jersey	New Mexico
New York	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	Texas	Wisconsin